

SWINDON'S ESCAPE.

LUTON UNFORTUNATE NOT TO WIN. FINE FORWARD PLAY.

SWINDON TOWN 1 goal
LUTON TOWN 1 "

My first words must be those of apology. The difficulties of getting through a report in time for the "Saturday Telegraph" have been considerable, and when the kick-off is at 3.15, and the game on opponents' ground, it is almost impossible for more than a few minutes' play to be described before we are thinking of going to Press. Last year we had some alarming experiences, although the kick-off was generally at 3 p.m., but this year a quarter-of-an-hour later was allowed for the early and late months. Realising how great a difference that 15 minutes makes, we made arrangements for reports to be telephoned from the ground by the Exchange Telegraph Company, and I was left to supply the "Pictorial" and "News" commentaries. On Saturday the arrangement was made, but the Exchange Telegraph Company's representative made a grave error. He telephoned to the "Saturday Telegraph" the teams as they stood on the match card, with the result that Thompson was given as playing at centre, and Reid at inside-left, whereas the former was not fit, and with the exception of Hoar for Reader the Luton team was as the previous week. It was a very serious error, and although readers will realise that we were not to blame, I feel that an apology is due to



George Butcher.

George Butcher, just as is one to us. We have taken up the matter with the Exchange Telegraph Company, of course.

Swindon had one change, Denyer being absent owing to suffering from quinsies, and Norton crossed over to the right to let in Turner on the extreme left—an experiment that Swindon have been anxious to try.

And now to the game.

WE WERE SURPRISED!

We had to leave Luton before nine o'clock to arrive in Swindon in time for lunch. Before the teams turned out rain fell for a little while, but had ceased when we were surprised by a lusty cheer from the grand stand that greeted Tirrell and his men, as they were first out. As we had only mustered 15 all told on the journey, I had a look round, and found that a nice little company of soldiers had turned up from Salisbury Plain, and they were letting Swindon know it.

Tirrell won the toss and chose to face the slight slope, and in the presence of 8,000 spectators the men lined up as under: SWINDON.—Nash; Colebourne, Weston; Rogers, Archer, Wareing; Norton, Davies, Cooke, Johnson, Turner.

LUTON.—Gibbon; Lennon, Tirrell; Foster, Walker, Roe; Hoar, Higginbotham, Reid, Butcher, Clarkson.

Referee.—Mr. R. R. Crump, London.

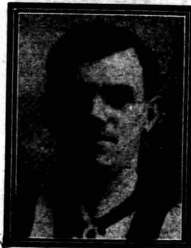
Swindon made the first advance, but Tirrell jockeyed Norton offside. The home right were in aggressive mood, however, and they went on again, but Norton sent wide. Sid Hoar got away next, and after being fouled once he got the ball over nicely to Reid, but Weston stopped in and cleared. Wareing was twice penalised for fouling Reid in the first five minutes, and the second occasion the Luton forward had to receive attention. From the free kick by Tirrell Foster sent over with a pot shot. Tirrell twice cleared when Swindon essayed to get away, and Luton kept the

(By "CRUSADER.")

ball in the Swindon penalty area for quite a long time, but the forwards were not quick enough to get in a shot, and eventually Swindon got in an attack on the left. Turner centring for Walker to stop the ball at the expense of a corner. This was cleared, but the "Reds" came again. After Wareing had been penalised for fouling Higginbotham, they came back, and Norton flashed a hot shot a yard wide. Luton again got away as the result of

BRIGHT WORK

by Foster, and Clarkson and Butcher went right through, but the former's pass was



W. CLARKSON.

seized by Colebourne. Then the right wing had a turn, and Hoar centred cleverly, the home backs clearing after a scramble. Again they went through, and Reid's shot was blocked by Weston.

So far the Whites' had been by far the better team, and they did not get all their deserts. From a centre by Hoar Colebourne kicked the ball over to Butcher, and Reid netted, but was given offside.

The "Reds" got away on the left, and Lennon yielded a corner, but Norton shot wide. Then Clarkson was sprinting through with a clear course, when tripped by Colebourne, but Weston cleared the free kick, and the "Reds" came away again, and Gibbon had to punch away a free kick. Back again came the Town, and after Nash had once saved, Hoar fired wide. Still Luton pressed, and Butcher and Clarkson beat Rogers and Colebourne, and Clarkson hit the side net with a rasping.

Following a free kick that should not have been given, the "Reds" managed to get in an attack, but Walker headed away from close in, and then Lennon cleared with a big kick. Higginbotham cleverly sent Reid through, but the latter was well offside. This was not the case a moment later, for the referee was at fault in a similar decision.

At the end of 37 minutes' play Luton's persistence was rewarded. Hoar centred right into goal, and Reid shot against one of the defenders.



H. Higginbotham.

HIGGINBOTHAM pounced on the ball and shot a hard shot at the post as Nash ran out, but the Luton player again got to the ball and tapped it into the vacant net, giving the Town the lead, and incidentally scoring the first goal for the opposition on the Swindon ground this season. Luton were

now playing beautiful football, and the forward combination was nothing less than a revelation. Again they swept through on the right, and Butcher, who had craftily closed in, was only a foot wide in a shot that travelled across goal. Following clever work by Walker, Reid missed a fine chance a moment later after good work by Butcher, and the home defenders were now in desperate plight and kicking anywhere out of danger.

At length Swindon went away again, and Roe put in some clever headwork before he was fouled by Norton, and then Foster broke up the attack and sent Hoar away smartly, but the winger's nice centre was not wisely used. Higginbotham had a bit of fun on his own at the expense of Wareing, and then Turner got away, only to be pulled up by Lennon, and the Town were making tracks once more, when the whistle sounded the interval with the score:

LUTON TOWN 1 goal

SWINDON TOWN Nil

Rain was falling smartly when the game was resumed, and a linesman signalled a foul of hands against Roe when he was on the ground and did not know where the ball was. From the free kick the Town goal had a narrow escape, Johnson missing an easy chance.

Tirrell brought off a brilliant clearance a moment later, and Walker got the ball away from under the bar. Roe and Norton collided directly after, and had to receive attention.

Gibbon was called upon to clear a long shot from Davies, and then Clarkson went through and centred, but Reid could not get any powder behind his shot, and Nash gathered and cleared. Clarkson, well aided by Butcher again, ran through and centred, and Reid had hard lines with a beautiful first-time shot that whizzed past the upright. A moment later Nash saved at full length a fast grounder from Reid.



J. Foster.

Walker and Roe kept the Swindon forwards well in hand and consistently pushed the ball forward, and for some minutes neither Lennon nor Tirrell had a kick. Butcher walked round Archer and then tricked Rogers, and then Clarkson to prance clean through once more, but with only Nash to beat, the winger sent wide.

Then Reid dribbled over to the left and centred, and Hoar hit the post with

A CRASHING SHOT

when Nash was beaten to the world. The Town were all over the home team now, and Foster joined in the goal-hunting.

A sudden diversion by Norton brought danger, for the ball glanced off the face of the bar for Turner to shoot wide. Another hot attack by Luton, in which they quite oversteered the defence, brought nothing. Butcher's shot cannoning off an opponent. Hoar ran round Wareing cleverly, and Higginbotham sent one shot against an opponent, while another from the same foot was dealt with by Nash.

Twenty-three minutes from the resumption the Railwaymen got clear away through Norton; he sent across to Turner, the latter returned it, and NORTON, who had cut in and was unmarked, had an easy task to equalise the scores.

[Continued in next column.]

[Continued from previous column.]

Far from being disheartened, Luton went at it with renewed vigour, and the left wing, by delightful passing, went clean through, and the ball was put over to Hoar. He returned it across goal, and Butcher had the hardest of luck, for in trying to convert he stopped the ball almost dead on the line, and it was scrambled away. The referee spoke to Rogers for fouling Clarkson, and then the "Reds" came again. Davies struck Gibbon with a hard shot, but the keeper cleared, and Luton made the pace again, Reid shooting over after good work by Walker and Roe.

Swindon improved, and a neat passing run ended in Johnson putting wide. Tirrell was prominent with some

HEAVY BOOTING.

and the Town got away again. A bad foul by Colebourne on Clarkson not four yards from goal, when the winger was right through, was overlooked, as was a case of handling by the same back, and in each instance a penalty kick was merited.

Butcher drew the defence and sent to Clarkson, and the latter dribbled through, but Reid could not control the ball. Still Luton persisted, and Swindon were now more concerned with saving a point than trying to win, and they were kicking anywhere. They were overplayed and outplayed as badly as a team could be, but the Luton forwards could not get goals. Higginbotham and Butcher in turn drew the defences, and then gave their wingers opportunities. After one of Foster's bursts, Hoar shot into Nash's hands, and then Clarkson shot over.

From a free kick for a foul on himself Foster sent a hot one close, and another rousing attack resulted in a terrific shot from Higginbotham that Nash tipped over and then wondered where the ball had gone. From the flag kick Higginbotham sent past. Then Butcher made a great dribble, and Clarkson crashed in a shot that struck Colebourne and went for a corner. This was cleared with difficulty, but other corners followed, and we had four flag-kicks in the last five minutes, swarming the Swindon goal area. It was only by great good luck that the home goal escaped. The Town were pressing up to the final whistle, which went with the score:

LUTON TOWN	1 goal
SWINDON TOWN	1 "